

QA-141  
Centreville Academy  
Centreville  
Private

1803-1804

The Centreville Academy is the oldest school building in Queen Anne's County, and is believed to be one of the earliest surviving in the state. The establishment of an academy of learning in Centreville was authorized by the state legislature in 1803, and the building was built in the ensuing year. By fall of 1804 the building was completed, a teacher of Latin and English had been hired, and the school was in operation. In 1893 the Centreville Academy was incorporated into the Queen Anne's County school system, and in 1901 the building was sold to a private owner. Since 1902 it has served as a meeting hall.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Centreville Academy

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Northeast corner of North Liberty Street and Academy Lane

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER: meeting hall**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

American Legion, Clarence Wilson Post No. 21

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: ASG#7

Folio #: 451

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Centreville Academy is located on the northeast corner of North Liberty Street and Academy Lane. The building is oriented away from Liberty Street, and faces across an open green to Commerce Street.

The Academy is of brick construction, two stories high and four bays wide with a moderately pitched gable roof. The brickwork is laid in Flemish bond on the south facade and the west gable, and in three-course bond on the north facade and the east gable, as well as in the upper gable of the west wall.

The entrance is located in the center of the east gable wall, and consists of a wide double door with a six-light transom. Above the door, on the second floor, there is a large tripartite window with six-over-six sash in the center flanked by a pair of two-over-two sash. An early 20th century one-story porch with turned doric columns protects the entrance door.

On the south facade, there are four six-over-six windows on each floor. The first floor openings have splayed jack arch lintels; on the second floor the lintels consist of a plain soldier course of

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

QA-141

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

|   |  |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| PREHISTORIC                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS              | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION   | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Centreville Academy is the oldest school building in Queen Anne's County and is believed to be one of the earliest surviving in the State.

The establishment of an academy of learning in Centreville was authorized by the state legislature in 1803, and in June of that year the following announcement appeared:

The trustees for erecting the academy at Centreville give notice that they will meet at the court house on Saturday, the 25th inst., for the purpose of receiving proposals from persons disposed to undertake (the erection of the building). The plan of the building with a description of the work and materials may be seen

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Emory, Frederick. Queen Anne's County, Maryland. Baltimore, 1950.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

11/14/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

headers.

A flush brick chimney rises on the center of the west gable, and was originally flanked by a pair of six-over-six windows on each floor. These have been bricked up, however, leaving recesses to demarcate the original openings.

The north facade is similar to the south facade, but the openings appear to have been altered somewhat. The east window on the first floor was originally lower than the others, but has been bricked up, leaving a small rectangular opening near ground level. The remaining three windows on the first floor appear to have been lowered approximately eight courses from their original location. At present, they conform to the height of the first floor windows on the south wall. If they have in fact been lowered, then they were originally considerably higher than the south windows. The second floor windows offer no evidence of alterations and conform to the second floor windows on the south wall.

The present cornice is probably not original, but dates to the mid-19th century. It consists of a box cornice with a crown mold above the soffit and a bed mold applied against a beaded fascia board below

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

the soffit. It returns at the gables and is carried up the gable eaves. The roof is presently covered with corrugated tin.

The interior of the building is divided to form a vestibule at the east end and a large rectangular room at the west end on each floor. The entrance door opens into the first floor vestibule. A second door leads into the larger first floor room, while a stair in the north end of the vestibule leads to the second floor. The south end of the vestibule has been partitioned to create a small bathroom.

The large west room on the first floor is quite plain, with simple plastered window openings, linoleum floors and a fiberboard ceiling. A heavy chamfered summer beam bisects the room longitudinally and is supported by a single heavy post located in the center of the room. The location of the two original windows in the west gable wall can be traced in the interior plaster.

The second floor is similarly arranged, with a vestibule at the east end, and doors leading into the large west room. There is a raised platform across the west end of the room, and a brick stove flue on the

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

center of the west wall. The wood floor remains exposed, but the ceiling is finished with fiberboard. The window openings are plastered, and no decorative trim remains.



## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

by applying to Mr. William Clayton,  
in Centreville... (1)

The notice was signed by William Clayton "Secretary", and was dated June 7, 1803. Frederick Emory notes that the building was probably completed within about a year, as the trustees advertised for two tutors in July 1804, one to teach Latin, the other English. On October 23, 1804, they announced that a teacher of both Latin and English had been hired, and that the school was already in operation. Tuition prices were set at £7.10.0 per annum for Latin and £5 for English. Emory was able to locate several other newspaper advertisements and notices which include references to the names of various tutors and the courses taught. He also comments that the Academy "has (as of 1881) continued in successful operation ever since, and has been of great benefit to the county, especially in its earlier years when schools of superior grade were scarcer". (2)

In 1893, the Centreville Academy was incorporated into the Queen Anne's County School system, and the

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.2 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

trustees conveyed "that Academy Lot...whereon is located the old Brick Academy" to the County School Commissioners. (3)

Within a few years the Academy was taken out of service, and in 1901 the property was sold to Lemuel Dunbracco for \$500. (4) In 1902, Dunbracco sold it for \$650 to Mount Arat Pasture No. 3, Grand United Order of Nazarites of Queen Anne's County. This deed describes the property as "the Academy Lot where is located the old Brick Academy until lately used as a school for male children..." (5)

Since 1902 the academy building has <sup>served</sup> moved as a meeting hall, first for the United Order of Nazarites, and since 1943 by the Clarence E. Wilson Post No. 21 of the American Legion. (6)

Footnotes

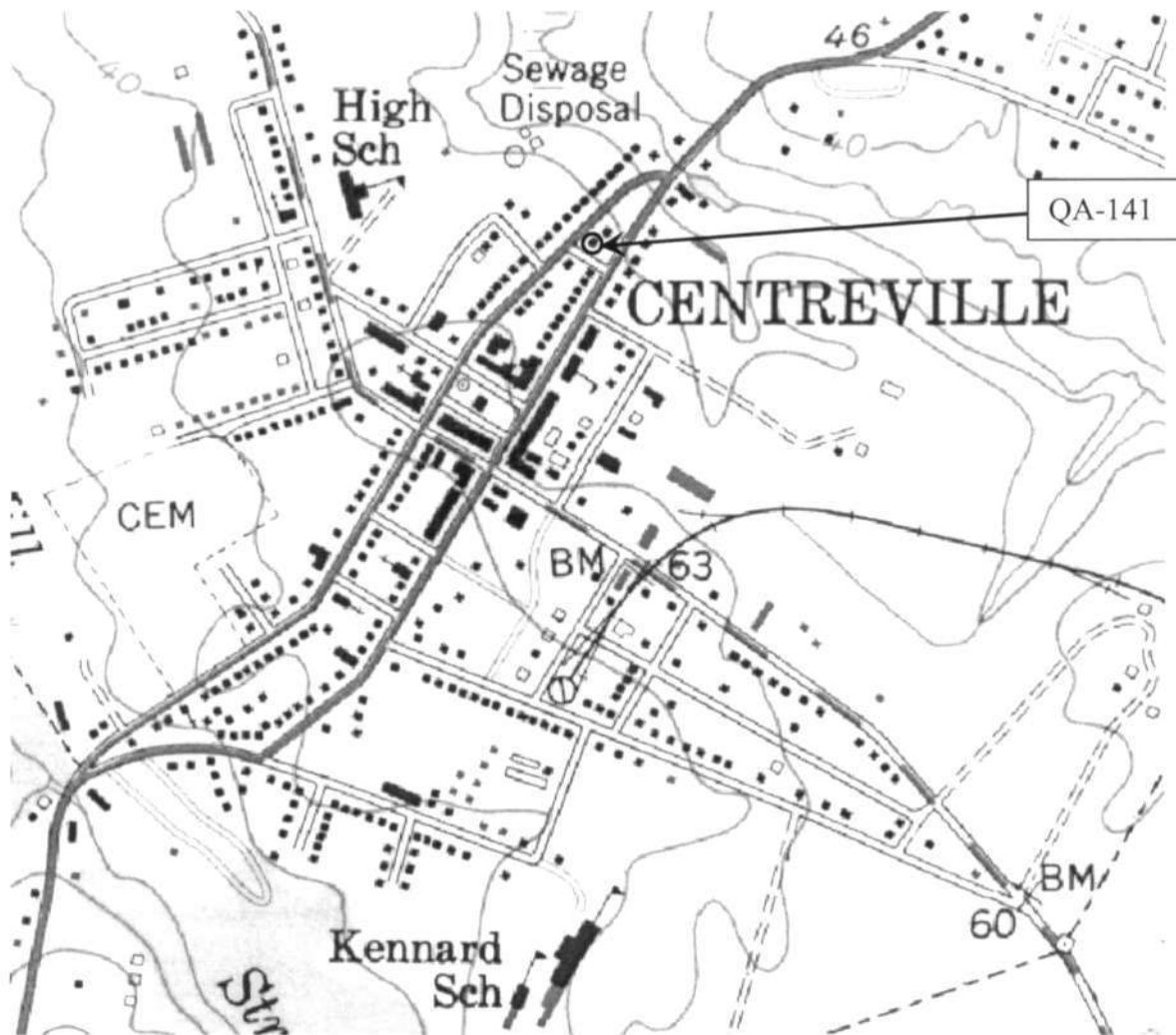
- (1) Emory, p. 415.
- (2) ibid
- (3) Deeds, Liber LD 2, folio 360. October 3, 1893.
- (4) Deeds, Liber JEG 2, folio 468. December 10, 1901.
- (5) Deeds, Liber JEG 4, folio 234. December 6, 1902.
- (6) Deeds, Liber ASG Jr. 7, folio 451. April 26, 1943.

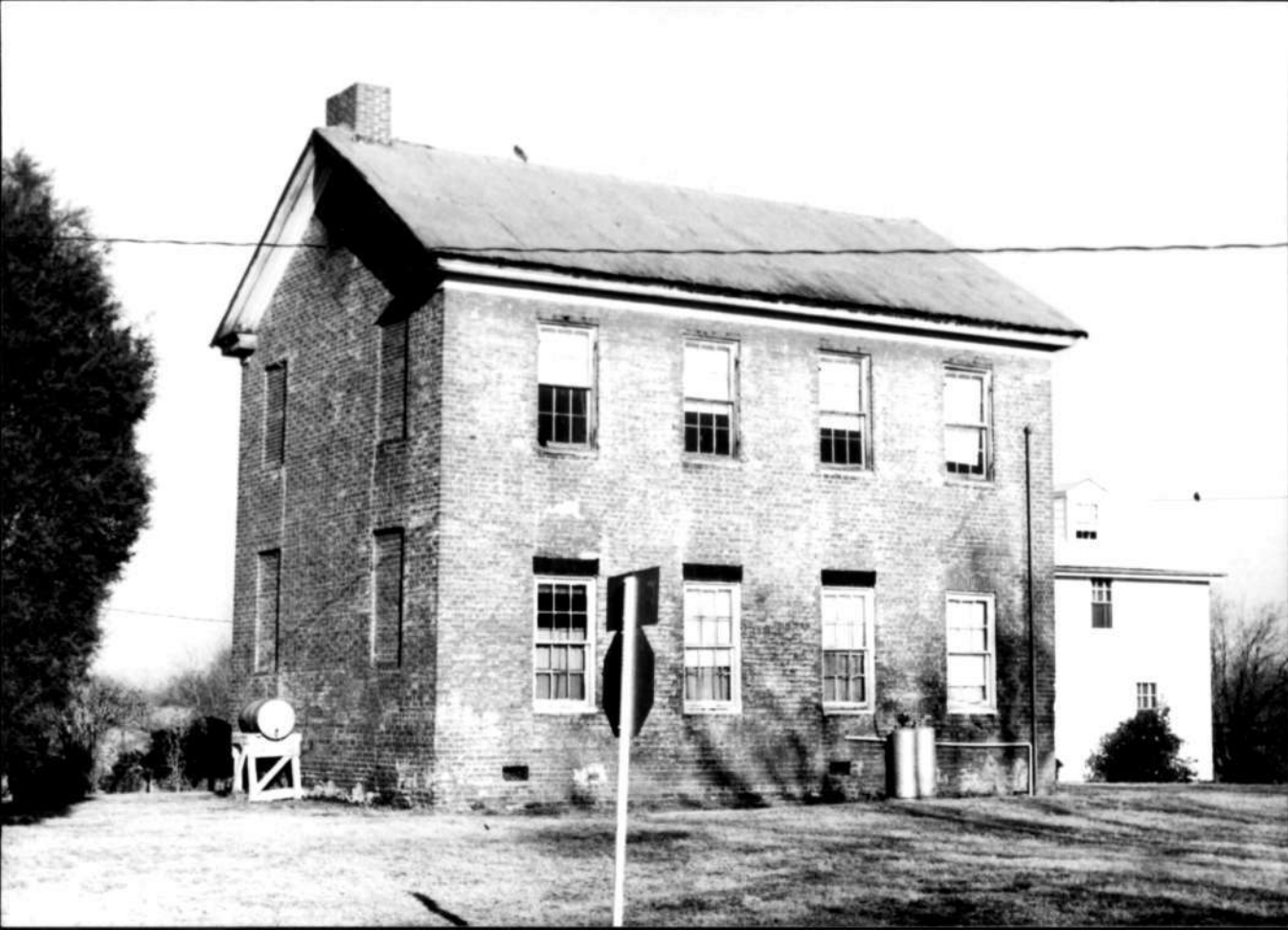
QUEEN ANNE C9

Wm T P Turpin

[illegible][illegible]

QA-141  
Centreville Academy  
Academy Lane  
Centreville Quad.  
Queen Anne's Co.





QA-141 Centreville Academy  
ORV 1978

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QA-146 Centerville Academy  
OR v 1978

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/



Q. A. #141

Centreville Academy

JWW - Spring 1973



Centreville Academy - G.A. 141

MOB - 1/72



G.A. - 141 Centreville Academy J.A.C. 12/74